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March 21, 2008

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS  
ON THE  
ENVIRONMENTAL NOTIFICATION FORM

PROJECT NAME : Cranmore Farm Water Withdrawal Project  
PROJECT MUNICIPALITY : East Bridgewater  
PROJECT WATERSHED : Taunton  
EOEA NUMBER : 14189  
PROJECT PROPONENT : Cary Whitmore, C.J.W. Realty Trust  
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR : February 20, 2008

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (G. L. c. 30, ss. 61-62H) and Section 11.06 of the MEPA regulations (301 CMR 11.00), I hereby determine that this project **does not require** the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.

As described in the Environmental Notification Form (ENF), the project consists of the permitting for the withdrawal of approximately 167,000 gallons per day (gpd) from an on-site man-made reservoir for the irrigation, harvest, and winter flooding activities associated with the ongoing cranberry production located within a 57.6-acre parcel of property off Plymouth Street in East Bridgewater.

The project is undergoing review pursuant to Section 11.03 (4)(b)(1) of the MEPA regulations, because the project involves the withdrawal of 100,000 or more gallons per day (approximately 167,000 gpd total) from a water source that requires new construction for the withdrawal. The project will require an Order of Conditions from the East Bridgewater Conservation Commission (and hence Superseding Order(s) from MassDEP if the local Order is appealed).

The proponent is seeking a Water Withdrawal Permit pursuant to the Water Management Act from the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The Water Management Act (M.G.L. 21G; 310CMR 36.00) regulates water use of 100,000 gallons per day (gpd) or greater.

According to MassDEP, the proponent has constructed an extremely water-efficient, "new-style" cranberry bog operation involving laser leveled bogs; installation of sprinkler irrigation and tailwater recovery; and installation of flumes, culverts and dikes to USDA-NRCS specifications. The proponent continues to work closely with MassDEP and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in the design, construction and maintenance of the cranberry bog's irrigation system and the irrigation water withdrawals.

The review of the ENF has served to demonstrate that the impacts of the completed project do not warrant the preparation of an EIR. I conclude that no further MEPA review is required.

March 21, 2008

Date

  
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Ian A. Bowles, Secretary

Comments received:

03/11/08      Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) - SERO

ENF #14189  
IAB/NCZ/ncz